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COUNTRY Bulgaria REPORT NO. 25X1A

TOPIC Lovetsch Former Aircraft Plant in Bulgaria 25X1X

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT August 1949

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 4 May 1950

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. Designation of plant: Lovetsch Aircraft Factory.
2. Location: About 2 km north of Lovetsch, west of the Lovetsch-Levski railroad line,
3. Management: Petko Pop - Gantshev, manager, Lt Col - engineer. He studied mechanical engineering in Germany. He is not a Communist.
4. Military technical manager: Zvetan Lazarov, Lt Col-engineer, deputy manager and military technical manager (voenno tekhnitscheski natschalnik). No Communist.
5. Production:
 - a. Training airplanes were constructed during the war (licensed Focke-Wulff) construction of the Dsiegletz (Stieglitz) type). Single-engine planes (150 HP Siemens engine). The 1943 production was 40 training planes of this type. Repair-work on other planes was also done.
 - b. No planes were produced and no other airplane work was done from 1944 to 1947.
 - c. In 1947 some gliders were produced for the Bulgarian Association for civilian aviation (Sports and Technic) in Sofia. This association is only a sports organization.
 - d. Since late 1944 mainly sowing machines, beehives and horse-drawn vehicles for the armed forces are produced along with tractors and other agricultural machines repaired.
6. Work force: About 400 in April 1948
7. Other aircraft plants: The Caproni Plant in Kazanlik does small repair work on airplanes. Otherwise it has the same production schedule as the Lovetsch Plant.

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Field Comment:

The Bulgarian aircraft industry is negligible. The Caproni Plant was established by the former Czechoslovakian Aero Aircraft Plant which then hoped to receive larger orders from the Bulgarian Air Force. However, when these expectations were not fulfilled the plant was ceded to Caproni. Even then there was no warplane production.

One small series each of fighters (Avia B-135) and small-size twin-engine combat planes (Aero A-304) were delivered to Bulgaria by the Protectorate.

The plants are considered only small repair plants.

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